

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT NO.

TOPIC Military Information from Altenburg

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EVALUATION see below

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DATE OF CONTENT 15 to 27 March 1952

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DATE PREPARED 12 May 1952

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 27 March 1952, the barracks installation west of Leipzigerstrasse in Altenburg (I. 51/K 27) was occupied by about 600 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, some, however, wore motor transport insignia. The ranking officer in this installation was a colonel. A lieutenant colonel and two majors were also seen. During the period from 15 to 27 March, there was intensive anti-gas training involving the donning and removing of gasmasks, putting on and taking off protective boots, and gas planes flew over. Four groups, each of 20 soldiers, and 3 groups, each of 40 soldiers, were involved. They practiced under the supervision of a lieutenant colonel. A group of 40 soldiers practiced for 15 minutes running with donned gasmasks. On 23 March, about 250 soldiers received athletic training. A total of 8 x 122-mm field howitzers and 3 ZIS-3 76.2-mm field guns and caterpillar tractors which served as prime movers for the field howitzers were seen on various days in the barracks area.

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2. On 26 March, the barracks installation east of Leipzigerstrasse was occupied by about 750 to 800 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, most of them with artillery insignia and a few with motor transport insignia. The ranking officer in this installation was a colonel. Two lieutenant colonels and two majors were also seen. On 23 March, about 140 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets were seen practicing defense against gas. On 26 March, 30 soldiers were seen through the open doors of the gun sheds cleaning six 76.2-mm AT guns. About 40 soldiers practiced jumping various distances with rifle in hand. Six model 44 100-mm AT guns and 30 x 76.2-mm ZIS-3 AT guns were seen on different days in the barracks area. Motor vehicles were seen entering and leaving the installation.
3. On 27 March, 40 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets were seen training on four 100-mm AT guns, and 25 troops were seen practicing close-order drill in the barracks installation east of Leipzigerstrasse. About 15 trucks parked in the barracks yard.

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4. On 27 March, about 13 trucks parked in the barracks installation west of Leipzigerstrasse, and 1 100 and 10 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets entered the installation. A total of 22 soldiers, including 2 carrying shells and 2 carrying brass cartridge cases of a large caliber marched out of the installation.

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5. On 24 March, the barracks installation west of Leipzigerstrasse was occupied to capacity by about 1,200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia and a few with AT insignia. Two 122-mm model 1931/37 field guns, 2 x 100-mm model 44, AT guns, 2 ZIL-3 76.2-mm AT guns and 3 model 42 15-mm AT guns were seen during the preceding days. The troops engaged in physical training, firing practice and gun drill.

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6. On 23 March, the barracks installation east of Leipzigerstrasse was occupied by about 600 to 900 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia and some with motor transport insignia. Five armored personnel carriers, each towing a 100-mm AT gun and 2 armored personnel carriers without a gun, each carrying 1 officer and 11 NCO wearing red-bordered black epaulets, left the installation. About 90 troops were seen repeatedly receiving anti-gas training in the barracks area during the preceding days.

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Comment. The information contained in the present report confirms artillery units as still stationed in Altenburg on 27 March 1952. Available information indicates that the 43d (Gds) Army Arty Brig of the Eighth Gds Army and components of the 38th (?) AT Arty Brig of the XXIX Gds Pz Rifle Corps were concerned. See

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